

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-02-03R

A RESOLUTION OF THE AMERICAN FORK CITY COUNCIL IN OPPOSITION TO H.B. 232, THE CREATION OF THE UTAH LAKE AUTHORITY.

WHEREAS Utah Lake (the “Lake”) is the centerpiece of Utah Valley and a valued part of the plentiful land we enjoy.

WHEREAS the Lake provides natural beauty, a panoramic viewscape, and recreation opportunities available to all residents and visitors of the local communities.

WHEREAS the economic vitality of the Wasatch Front depends on prudent water management and access to water rights.

WHEREAS water quality of the Lake is of utmost importance to not only local communities, but upstream and downstream users of the Lake.

WHEREAS any regulating entity for the Lake must remain responsive to a robust and transparent public process that includes collective and vigilant oversight from cities, businesses and communities that use and benefit from the Lake.

WHEREAS the creation of any board or commission having authority to oversee, maintain, manage, and/or develop the Lake, or assess fees, charges, or a tax, should include representation of *all* stakeholders, including the City of American Fork.

WHEREAS the proposed Utah Lake Authority, patterned after the Inland Port Authority, does not equitably represent citizens and stakeholders of the State and local communities.

WHEREAS the City supports legislative efforts to restore the sovereignty and continued primacy of the lake, similar to other large bodies within the State.

WHEREAS the right to sell, convey, grant, dispose of by gift, or otherwise dispose of any interest in real or personal property of the Lake to private bodies or political subdivisions should be reserved to the State Legislature and Governor of the State of Utah.

WHEREAS the contemplated \$2.00 per month, per sewer connection, nor the anticipated sales tax revenues, should not be imposed or modified by a non-elected regulating body; nor should it be imposed without an opportunity for those impacted to be heard. Furthermore, any fee established prior to an understanding of the needs of the Lake is premature in its assessment.

WHEREAS a number of groups and entities have initiated significant research efforts to determine the reasonableness and practicality of continued Lake restoration efforts. Said groups and entities should be allowed an opportunity to present their findings and such findings should be considered, in good faith, as restoration of the Lake, not development, is beneficial for local communities and their visitors.

WHEREAS the Legislature must ensure that the past and ongoing restoration efforts are not negated, but are allowed to continue, bringing additional, needed benefits to the Lake.

WHEREAS collaborative efforts of the past, including significant financial commitments, and the committed resources and efforts for the future demonstrate that the Lake is not irreparably damaged nor in need of Lake-wide disturbance of the Lake's lakebed and sediments.


WHEREAS disturbance of the Lake's lakebed and sediments is unnecessary, ecologically risky, highly expensive, and any islands that could result from such disturbance of the Lake's lakebed and sediments will deface the Lake, harming its aesthetic and recreational values.

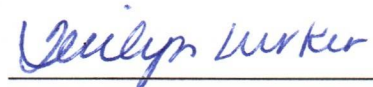
NOW THEREFORE, the American Fork City Council opposes the creation of the Utah Lake Authority under the proposed terms and conditions as outlined in H.B. 232 and requests that the legislative body of the State ensure restoration of the Lake's natural beauty, rather than create a pathway for future dredging and development of the Lake.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the recorder of American Fork City transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President of the Utah Senate, to the Speaker of the Utah House of Representatives, to the clerk of the Legislature, to the Utah Lake Commission, and to the news media of Utah.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL THIS 8TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022.

ATTEST:


Bradley J. Frost, Mayor


Terilyn Lurker, Recorder

